

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-10, 12-13, 17-22, and 24 have been amended. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments reflected in the listing of claims.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing physical port security in a digital communication system, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

[[a.]] receiving a frame of digital data at a network device[[,]];

[[b.]] generating a destination port bit map based on the destination address information contained in said frame of digital data[[,]];

[[c.]] comparing said destination port bit map with a physical port security bit map to generate a bit map of allowed destination ports, wherein said physical port security bit map is generated based on information in said received frame of digital data; and

[[d.]] forwarding said frame of digital data to one or more of said allowed destination ports.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~said comparing ~~step includes the step of~~ comprises conducting a logical AND on said destination port bit map and physical port security bit map.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~comprising~~ generating said physical port security bit map ~~is generated~~ using source address information contained in said digital data frame.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~comprising~~ generating said physical port security bit map ~~is generated~~ using destination address information contained in said digital data frame.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~comprising~~ generating said physical port security bit map ~~is generated~~ using a combination of source and destination address information contained in said digital data frame.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said address information ~~[[is]]~~ comprises IP address information.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the device that~~ receives a said frame of digital data ~~is received by~~ a router.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the device that receives the~~ said frame of digital data is received by a network file server.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said network device comprises one or more ~~the physical ports of the device that receives the frame of digital data are~~ connected to a local area network.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said received frame of digital data is received from a process that is inside of said network device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said physical port security bit map is generated dynamically based on a variable parameter.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~In an intermediate network device having a communications port for receiving digital data from a digital communications system and two or more physical data ports for forwarding said digital data, a~~ A system for providing physical port security, ~~in the digital communication system comprising:~~

at least one processor within a network device, said network device having a communications port for receiving digital data from a digital communications system and

two or more physical data ports for forwarding said digital data, said at least one of processor enables:

~~that generates~~generation of a destination port bit map based on the destination address information contained in said received digital data[[],];

~~compares~~comparing of said destination port bit map with a physical port security bit map to generate a bit map of allowed destination ports, wherein said physical port security bit map is generated based on information within said received digital data; and

~~forwards~~forwarding of said digital data to one or more of said allowed destination ports.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein said ~~microprocessor~~ ~~conducts~~ at least one processor enables conducting of a logical AND operation on said destination port bit map and said physical port security bit map.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said physical port security bit map is generated using source address information contained in said digital data.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said physical port security bit map is generated using destination address information contained in said digital data.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said physical port security bit map is generated from a table of stored allowed physical port addresses that varies depending on a combination of source and destination address information contained in said digital data.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein said address information [[is]]comprises IP address information.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein said network device comprises ~~the device that receives the digital data is a router.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein said network device comprises ~~the device that receives the digital data is a network file server.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein [[the]]said two or more physical data ports of [[the]]said network ~~device that receives the digital data~~ are connected to a local area network.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein [[the]]said digital data [[is]]comprises IP data.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~[[the]]~~said at least one processor retrieves said physical port security bit map ~~is retrieved by the microprocessor-based on IP source address contained in~~ ~~[[the]]~~said digital data.

23. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said network device is the source of said received digital data.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~[[the]]~~said physical port security bit map is dynamically altered based on a variable parameter.